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India

Agricultural Situation

Monsoon Progress Report No. 2

2005

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Report Highlights:

Progress of the southwest monsoon remains slow, which is likely to affect planting of crops like rice, coarse grains, peanut, soybeans, and cotton.

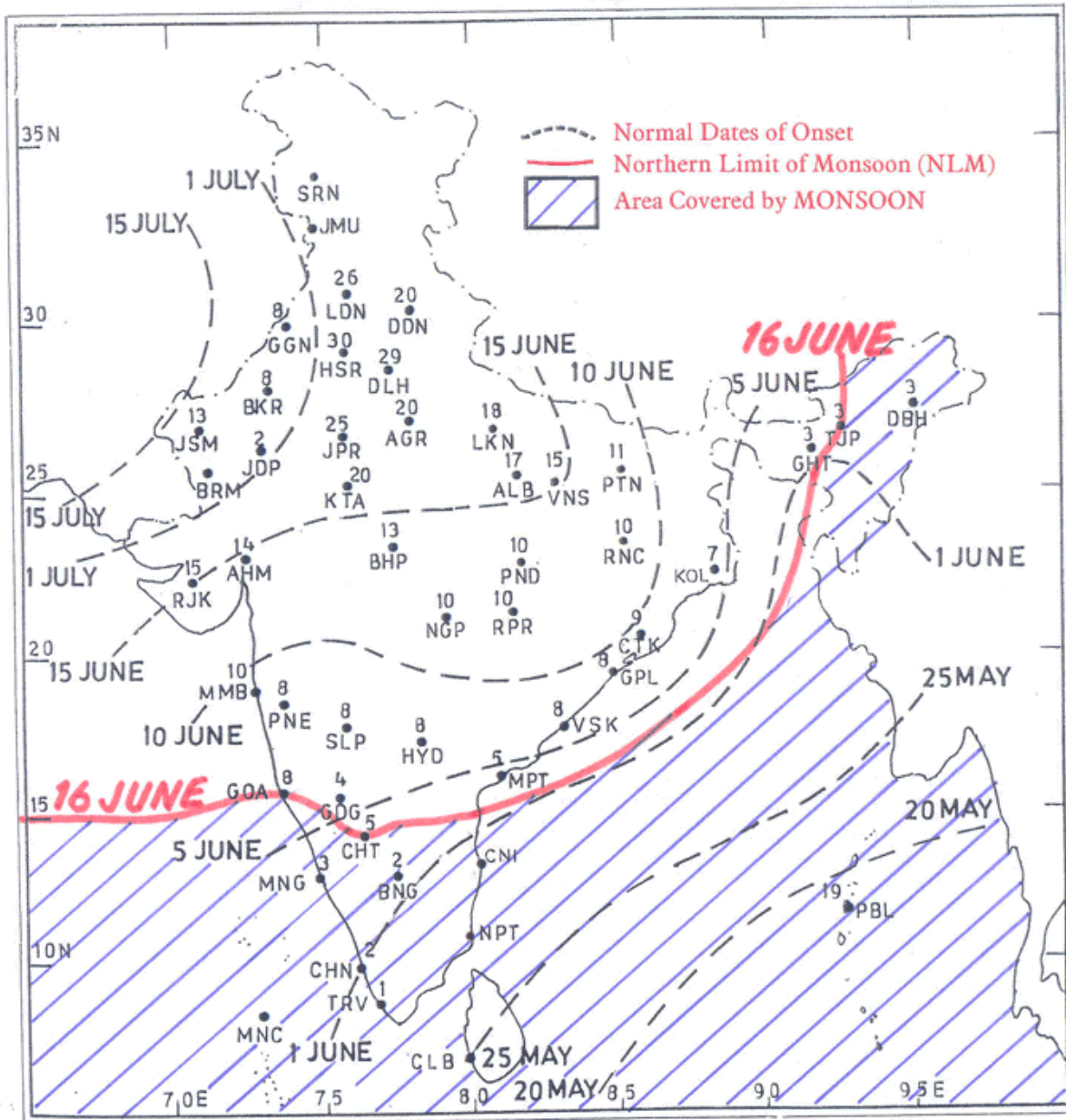
Includes PSD Changes: No
Includes Trade Matrix: No
Unscheduled Report
New Delhi [IN1]
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Although the southwest monsoon arrived at the southern tip of India on June 5, 2005, and has subsequently advanced into parts of southern India, its further progress has been stalled by adverse climatic factors. Area-weighted rainfall from June 1 to June 8, 2005, was 51 percent below normal at 13.7 mm. Rainfall was below normal in 27 of the 36 weather subdivisions. To make matters worse, severe heat-wave conditions prevailed over most parts of the country, with day temperatures running five to six degree Celsius above normal. The water level in 76 major reservoirs fell by more than 8 percent to 15.75 billion cubic meters (bcm) over the previous week, which although better than last year, is only 88 percent of the average over the past ten years.

Planting of most *kharif* (fall and early winter-harvested) crops, which mostly include rice, coarse grains, pulses, peanut, soybean, cotton, and sugarcane, begins with the onset of the monsoon. Initial planting reports available with the Ministry of Agriculture show a reduction in the planting of coarse grains, rice, and oilseeds, but an increase in cotton planting (mostly in Punjab where much of it is irrigated). The delay in the progress of the monsoon is causing concern among farmers and the government. Several northern states are facing acute shortages of electricity and drinking water, with increasing deaths due to heat wave conditions.

The following maps show the progress of the monsoon so far; cumulative rainfall during June 1 to June 8; and the water table level in major irrigation dams this year versus last year, and the ten-year average.

PROGRESS OF SOUTHWEST MONSOON 2005



भारत मौसम विज्ञान विभाग INDIA METEOROLOGICAL DEPARTMENT

